

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated February 1, 2005, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

A petition for a one-month extension of time accompanies this response together with the appropriate fee. Accordingly, the deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended until June 1, 2005, and this response is therefore timely filed since it was deposited in the mail for First Class Delivery Service on the date certified on the front page hereof.

The informalities expressed in the rejection of original claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §112 of been considered, and the claims have been amended to address those informalities. As amended, all of the claimed subject matter has a proper antecedent basis, and overall claims 1, 3-7, as amended, are believed to be in proper form and in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-7 are neither shown nor suggested by the prior art taken alone or in combination with one another. Specifically, claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 are not anticipated by McBride US 2,778,703, for the reasons noted below. Similarly, claim 5 is not rendered obvious by the combination of McBride and either Puehlhorn US 5,803,561 or Nichoalds US 4,786,122, for the following reasons. Finally, claim 6 is not rendered obvious by the combination of McBride, Nichoalds and Prentice et al US 6,119,854 ("Prentice"), for the reasons expressed below.

Claim 1 is the sole independent claim in this application, and this claim clearly defines a worktable having a top and four corner support posts with an undershelf releasably secured to the posts below the worktable top in combination with an enclosure for the worktable. The enclosure as defined in claim 1 has several significant components including a lintel releasably attached to a front underside of the worktable and the front vertical curved portions of the opposed side panels. Additionally, these critical components include separate contoured post covers, one for each support post, positioned around interior portions of the posts and secured to the vertical curved positions of the side panels.

McBride is significantly different in that the combination table and case disclosed therein does not include a lintel of the type defined in claim 1 which is releasably attached to the front underside of the worktable top and the front vertical curved portions of the opposed panels. Instead McBride simply shows a rectangular framework comprising upper and lower rail portions and interconnecting opposed side portions. Similarly, McBride fails to disclose or even suggest separate contoured post covers or any reasonable equivalent thereof.

The particulars of claims 3 and 4 are also unanticipated by McBride. As noted in these claims, the opposed side panels each include upper and lower inwardly disposed horizontal flanges with the lower flanges secured to the undershelf and the upper flanges abutting the worktable top. McBride is different.

With respect to the subject matter of claim 7, McBride fails to disclose or suggest the dual parallel tracks on both the lintel and the undershelf as recited in this claim.

Instead, as noted above, the arrangement of McBride includes the rectangular framework with the upper and lower horizontal rails and these rails include the dual parallel tracks. This arrangement of McBride is different and unsuggestive of the subject matter of claim 7.

The secondary references comprising Puehlhorn and Nichoalds do not cure the deficiencies of McBride with regard to the front door structure recited in claim 5. Neither reference shows doors hingedly secured to the front vertical curved portions of opposed side panels or any reasonable equivalent thereof. In Puehlhorn the doors are connected to a suitable rectangular frame and the same applies to the Nichoalds reference.

With respect to the subject matter of claim 6, the lintel is further defined as including a recessed door stop portion with magnets for releasably holding the front doors against the recessed stop portion in a closed position. These features are not disclosed in any of the three references relied upon in that the "lintel" of McBride is different for the reasons noted above, and the doors of Nichoalds are different as described above. Moreover, in Prentice the door structure includes a horizontal hinge and the magnets 30, 32 have a different orientation than the placement defined in claim 6.

Accordingly, in absence of additional prior art of increased pertinency it is clear that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 00275-00128-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By Richard M. Beck

Richard M. Beck

Registration No.: 22,580  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP  
1007 North Orange Street  
P.O. Box 2207  
Wilmington, Delaware 19899  
(302) 658-9141  
(302) 658-5614 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant

397284